

Ivy Main  
1331 Merchant Lane  
McLean, VA 22101

December 3, 2004

DEP attention Hetty Richardson  
17 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333-0017

Re: Rules for Cruise Ship Waste Disposal

Dear Ms. Richardson,

I am a summer resident of Hancock Point, Maine, on the shores of Frenchman Bay. My family owns a house that has been in the family now for five generations. My children sail on Frenchman Bay, while I kayak, canoe, or sometimes just sit and admire its rare and striking beauty. We eat lobsters, clams, mussels and crabs drawn from its waters, and enjoy watching seals, porpoises and the great variety of birds that make the bay their home.

In spite of its beauty and the great variety of life there, pollution is an ever-present threat to the health of the bay. As tourism and the number of both permanent and summer residents has increased over the years, the bay's waters have suffered proportionately. And Frenchman Bay is hardly unique; all up and down the coast of Maine, the same pressures are affecting the coastal waters of the state.

It is therefore incumbent on the state to take all possible measures to protect the health of its coastal waters. One means of doing so is to impose the strictest possible waste disposal rules on cruise ships operating in Maine waters. These floating cities collect and store more waste than many of Maine's own municipalities, and the discharge of those untreated wastes has the same adverse effects on human health and the environment as a municipality discharging its sewage directly into the ocean, a practice that has been illegal for many years.

I urge the DEP to adopt the strictest possible cruise ship waste disposal rules as a means of safeguarding the health of one of Maine's great treasures, its coastal waters.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Ivy Main', with a stylized, cursive script.

Ivy Main